2007-05356/

NEWSRELEASE

April 30, 2004

McGUINTY GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT MEANS BETTER JOB SKILLS FOR NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO WOMEN

Minister Sandra Pupatello promotes women's economic independence

THUNDER BAY – Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, today announced that a local organization will receive government support for a project that will offer employment and entrepreneurial training for northwestern Ontario women.

"Our government is prepared to put in the time and the support to develop the right programs for women entrepreneurs," said Pupatello. "This project is an example of a worthwhile investment in our workers and their skills — a real, positive change that will strengthen the local economy."

The project will focus particularly on Aboriginal and rural women. Northern Opportunities for Women: An Innovative Skills Development Program will assess local training needs, help set training priorities in the region and offer employment and entrepreneurial training services, all designed to increase the number of women in the local workforce.

PARO, a non-profit organization based in Thunder Bay, will co-lead the project with the North Superior Training Board. PARO offers services such as business development counselling and marketing training to low-income women in northwestern Ontario who are unemployed or underemployed.

"This financial support from the provincial government is a real boost for our project," said PARO Executive Director Rosalind Lockyer. "It means we can get the program underway and develop plans to assist women with their skill development needs."

The new two-year funding of $70,000 comes in the form of a grant administered by the Ontario Women's Directorate (OWD). The OWD, through its Partners for Change program, provides grants to non-profit organizations across Ontario for innovative projects that support women's economic independence.

Lynn Peterson, Mayor of Thunder Bay, also welcomed today's announcement. "Here's a partnership that makes great business sense," she said. "I want to thank the government for helping PARO and our entire community create a new success story."

"The Ontario government is committed to providing all Ontarians with a quality of life second to none," said Pupatello. "Helping women gain marketable skills makes our entire workforce that much stronger."

- 30 -

Contacts:
Sara Best, Minister's Office, (416) 325-5213
Barb McIntosh , Communications, (416) 314-7238

TOP

| Ontario Women's Directorate | About the OWD | News Releases | Facts and Statistics | How to Reach Us | Publications and Resources | A Guide to Government Services For Women | Related Sites | Grants | FAQ | Text Version |

| central site | feedback | search | site map | français |

Ontario
This site is maintained by the Government of Ontario, Canada.

External Links Disclaimer

Copyright information: © Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2004
Last Modified: April 30, 2004